

January 25, 2005

Lincoln & Sanders County Newspapers:

**The Daily Inter Lake, Kalispell, MT
Sanders County Ledger, Thompson Falls, MT
Western News, Libby, MT**

RE: Application for Operating Permit for Mines Management, Inc. Montanore Project

Dear Editor:

Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of your newspaper once each week for three consecutive weeks. If you have a Sunday edition, please begin it on January 30, 2005; otherwise, begin it as soon as possible.

Legal Notice

Notice of Application for an Operating Permit (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-335).

Mines Management, Inc. (MMI) filed an application on January 14, 2005 for an Operating Permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena and a Plan of Operations from the USDA Kootenai National Forest (KNF), in Libby, MT. MMI proposes to reactivate the old Noranda Minerals Company Montanore Project south of Libby, MT. MMI has prepared an operation and reclamation plan that reflects the plan approved by DEQ and KNF in a Record of Decision completed in 1992.

The Montanore Project is on private and Kootenai National Forest land 18 miles south of Libby, MT. The ore body is located beneath the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness in Sanders County. The proposed mill and other associated facilities are located in Lincoln County. All proposed surface disturbances are outside the wilderness boundary. The proposed mine and facilities would be located in portions of sections 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 26, and 35 in Township 28 North, Range 31 West and sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 14 and 15 in Township 27 North and Range 31 West.

DEQ and KNF are reviewing the plan for completeness. When the plan is complete, the agencies will initiate the environmental analysis process and prepare a new draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The agencies will announce in local newspapers, dates, times and places for scoping and accepting public comments.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the application. Copies of the application can currently be reviewed by the public at the DEQ office at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT or at the KNF Supervisor's Office in Libby at 1101 US Hwy 2 West. Other copies of the application are available in the Public Library at 911 Main Street in Thompson Falls and the Lincoln County Public Library at 220 West 6th in Libby, MT. For information on the project and to submit comments, contact:

Patrick Plantenberg
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau
DEQ
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-4960 or e-mail at pplantenberg@mt.gov

Please send your invoice to DEQ at the above address and include proof of publication. Please indicate that the bill is to be paid out of RC #535315, Doc # EMB 5035102. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Plantenberg
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau

cc: John McKay, KNF SO.
Bobbie Lacklen, Canoe Gulch RD

File 00150.37

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